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Agenda item 97

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Report of the Second Committee (Part I)*

Rapporteur: Ms. Silvia Cristina CORADO-CUEVAS (Guatemala)

1. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1996, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-first session the item entitled:

"Environment and sustainable development:

"(a) Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"(b) Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21;

"(c) Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity;

"(d) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States;

"(e) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind;

"(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction"

and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

* The report of the Committee on this item will be issued in several parts, under the symbol A/51/605 and addenda.

2. The Second Committee held a general discussion on the item at its 10th to 15th meetings, from 21 to 24 October 1996. An account of the Committee's general discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/51/SR.10-15). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 3rd to 6th and 8th meetings, from 14 to 18 October (see A/C.2/51/SR.3-6 and 8). An account of the Committee's further consideration of the item is given in addenda to the present report, as follows:

Sub-item	Addendum
(a)	1
(b)	2
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(d)	4
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(f)	6
Questions not relating to specific sub-items	7

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council for the year 1996 (A/51/3 (Part II));[1]

(b) Letter dated 20 March 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Trujillo Act and the Protocol Amending the Cartagena Agreement (A/51/87);

(c) Letter dated 7 May 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of France and the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the texts of the Summit on Nuclear Safety and Security, held in Moscow on 19 and 20 April 1996 (A/51/131);

(d) Letter dated 5 July 1996 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the final documents of the summit meeting of seven major industrialized countries, held at Lyon, France, from 27 to 29 June 1996 (A/51/208-S/1996/543);

(e) Letter dated 28 May 1996 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the results of the 95th Conference and related meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, held at Istanbul, Turkey, from 15 to 20 April 1996 (A/51/210);

(f) Note verbale dated 11 July 1996 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Sofia Declaration on Good-Neighbourly Relations, Stability, Security and Cooperation

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[1] To be issued in final form as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/51/3/Rev.1).

in the Balkans, adopted at the meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Countries of South-Eastern Europe, held at Sofia on 6 and 7 July 1996 (A/51/211-S/1996/551);

(g) Letter dated 12 August 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué issued at the conclusion of the seventeenth meeting of the Conference of Heads of Environment of the Caribbean Community, held at Bridgetown from 3 to 6 July 1996 (A/51/295);

(h) Letter dated 12 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of the Marshall Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Forum Communiqué adopted by the twenty-seventh South Pacific Forum, held at Majuro, Marshall Islands, from 3 to 5 September 1996 (A/51/357);

(i) Letter dated 13 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Tenth Summit of Heads of States and Government of the Rio Group, held at Cochabamba, Bolivia, on 3 and 4 September 1996 (A/51/375);

(j) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, adopted in New York on 24 September 1996 on the occasion of the celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Movement (A/51/462-S/1996/831);

(k) Letter dated 30 September 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the Meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries to the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, held in New York on 25 September 1996 (A/51/473-S/1996/839);

(l) Letter dated 4 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 and China adopted at the twentieth annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held in New York on 27 September 1996 (A/51/471);

(m) Letter dated 18 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan and Kazakstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint statement on Caspian Sea questions adopted at Baku on 16 September 1996 (A/51/529);

(n) Letter dated 28 October 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Hungary, Italy and Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting a joint declaration by their Foreign Ministers issued in Rome on 23 October 1996 (A/51/649-S/1996/901);

(o) Letter dated 5 November 1996 from the representatives of Azerbaijan, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Tashkent Declaration,

signed at the end of the fourth summit meeting of the Heads of State of the Turkish-Speaking Countries (A/51/664-S/1996/930);

(p) Letter dated 16 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Zimbabwe to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Harare Declaration on Solar Energy and Sustainable Development and the World Solar Programme 1996-2005: An Outline, adopted by Heads of State and Government at the World Solar Summit, held at Harare on 16 and 17 September 1996 (A/C.2/51/5);

(q) Letter dated 26 October 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.2/51/6);

(r) Letter dated 19 November 1996 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark and South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Workshop on Financial Mechanisms and Sources of Finance for Sustainable Forestry, held at Pretoria from 4 to 7 June 1996 (A/C.2/51/8);

(a) Implementation of the decisions and recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development

(a) Relevant sections of the report of the Economic and Social Council (A/51/3 (Part II));[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa: implementation of resolution 50/112 (A/51/510);

(c) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its eighth session (A/51/76);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, on its ninth session (A/51/76/Add.1);

(b) Special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

Report of the Secretary-General on the special session for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21 (A/51/420);

(c) Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the second meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (A/51/312);

(d) Implementation of the outcome of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing Countries

Report of the Secretary-General on action taken at the international, regional and national levels to implement the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States (A/51/354);

(e) Protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind

Report of the Secretary-General on the protection of global climate for present and future generations of mankind (A/51/484);

(f) International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction

Report of the Secretary-General on the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (A/51/186-E/1996/80).

4. At the 10th meeting, on 21 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development under sub-items 97 (d) and (e) and the Director and Deputy to the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs under sub-item 97 (f) (see A/C.2/51/SR.10).

5. At the 11th meeting, on 22 October, the Executive Secretary of the Secretariat for the Convention on Biological Diversity made an introductory statement under sub-item 97 (c) (see A/C.2/51/SR.11).

6. At the 12th meeting, on 22 October, introductory statements were made by the Under-Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development under sub-item 97 (b) and the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat for the Convention to Combat Desertification under sub-item 97 (a) (see A/C.2/51/SR.12).